

January 12, 1973

Dr. Frederick W. Fochtman  
Toxicology Laboratories  
Duquesne University  
School of Pharmacy  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

Dear Dr. Fochtman,

I note with interest your paper on "Toxicity of the Genus Dieffenbachia", Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology 15:38-45, 1969. My main interest in following up the work of Madaus and Koch 1941 is for the documentation of a monstrous abuse of scientific knowledge. May I ask you if there has been any other work on D. seguine and with particular reference to its effects on ~~stomatogenesis~~ <sup>stomatogenesis</sup>? Looking at the 1941 paper I am a little surprised ~~that~~ the conclusion that the entire effect can be so non-specific although you may wish to offer some further comment on that possibility. Do you know whether anyone has looked at the seguine species in a more recent and more scientific fashion to determine whether its toxic constituents may be different from those in picta and exotica?

Knowing some of the history of this subject I find it difficult to retain my scientific objectivity in framing such questions but I think these are the ones that would be asked if the question had arisen in a more neutral context.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics

JL/rr

Dieffenbachia  
used by Nazi doctors  
cited in Nuremberg trials

FOCHTMAN, F.